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CO/ED

28 May 1955

SC No. 02242/55

Copy No. 94

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 45
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
[] DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 9/1/80 REVIEWER: 019360

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODE WORD MATERIAL

Office of Current Intelligence

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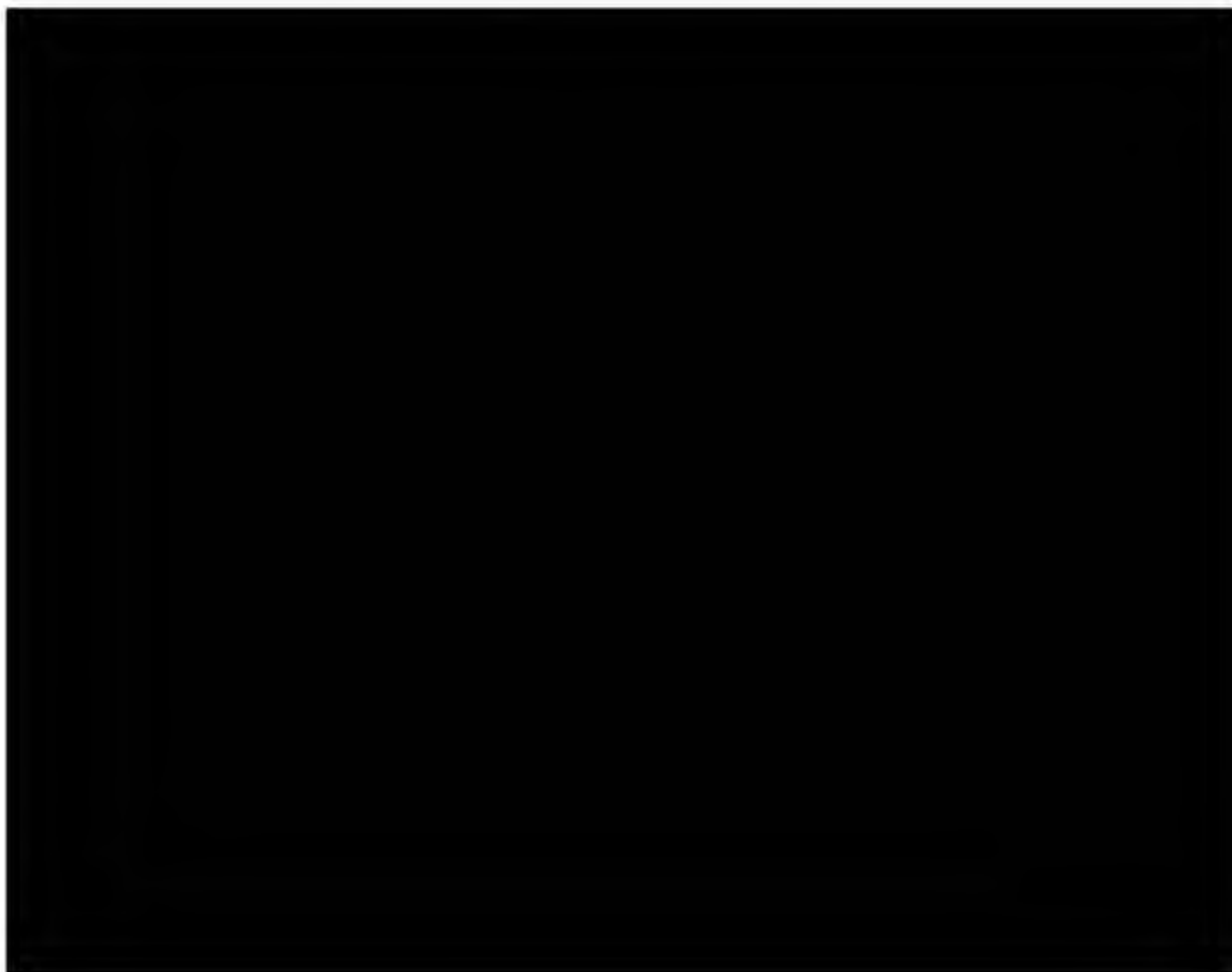
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SOUTHEAST ASIA

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SOUTH ASIA

2. Comment on the number of Soviet personnel in Afghanistan:

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A [REDACTED] study of Soviet personnel in Afghanistan indicates that the number is considerably smaller than has been previously reported, although the total has been almost doubled in the past year by the entry of technical personnel.

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Of a total of 175 Soviet citizens, including 38 wives, in Afghanistan in April 1955, 72 were technicians.

Other personnel included 64 individuals and dependents attached to Soviet diplomatic and military missions, 10 attached to the Soviet trade agency in Kabul, and 24 men and women in unidentified occupations.

[REDACTED]

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Egypt reported compromising with the Sudan on union and on Nile waters:

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[REDACTED]

During Sudanese prime minister Azhari's recent visit to Cairo, he and Prime Minister Nasr reached substantial agreement on future political relations between the two countries and on the distribution of Nile waters, [REDACTED]

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Future relations reportedly will include the continued use of a common currency, pursuit of a common foreign policy through advance discussions, and a joint military policy.

[REDACTED]

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On the distribution of the Nile waters, Egypt is reported to have recognized the Sudan's right to approximately 50 percent of the additional water to be made available by the proposed Aswan dam. This concession is based on the assumption that the Sudan will not actually be in a position to use its full share during the period of the agreement, which is believed to be 20 years. [REDACTED]

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Comment: This reported agreement, apparently without Egyptian insistence on political union, suggests that Nasr has adopted a new approach toward the Sudan in an effort to reach an agreement.

Nasr, however, may experience difficulty in obtaining the assent of the Revolutionary Command Council and the officers who support it for these concessions. The regime is heavily committed to achieving political union of the two countries.

4. Comment on Algerian situation:

25X1 [REDACTED] The situation in Algeria is such that the French Interior Ministry has urgently requested American assistance in obtaining helicopters for antiguerrilla operations. Premier Faure has also announced that NATO forces stationed in Germany and France will be sent to Algeria.

Even with recent military reinforcements, the Algerian situation has continued to deteriorate. French authorities are particularly worried over the desertions of native troops. Within the past two days the press has reported instances of the capture and disappearance of small military units, which may actually have deserted to the guerrillas.

Previous use of MDAP-supplied equipment by French forces in North Africa has resulted in nationalist resentment toward the United States, which has been exploited in Communist propaganda.

LATIN AMERICA

5. Possible disturbances in Venezuela:

25X1 [REDACTED] Venezuelan president Perez Jimenez' scheduled visit to Peru for a week beginning 4 June may be the occasion for

either a shake-up within the Venezuelan government or for revolutionary action, [REDACTED] Security chief Pedro Estrada is reported to discount rumors of revolutionary plans but actually gives the impression of being worried.

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Should a shake-up occur, it would be with the president's approval, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Comment: Reports of civilian and military plotting have been persistent in recent months, but it is questionable whether a revolutionary coup could succeed at this time. While most members of the military high command have been critical of certain Perez policies, only one has been reported conspiring with the opposition.

It is possible that Perez either hopes his absence will tempt the plotters into premature action or that he has arranged with the army for a coup as an excuse for eliminating controversial cabinet members and disposing of military and civilian plotters.